

House of Representatives, April 7, 1998. The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR, 99th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL OFFENDERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Office of Adult  
2 Probation, in conjunction with state-wide experts  
3 in law enforcement, the treatment of sexual  
4 offenders and sexual assault victim services,  
5 shall, within available appropriations, develop a  
6 community response education program to be offered  
7 to neighborhoods and municipalities that have been  
8 notified pursuant to section 54-102r of the  
9 general statutes, as amended, that a person who  
10 has registered under said section is or will be  
11 residing in that community.

12 (b) The purpose of such program shall be to  
13 assist neighborhoods, parents and children to  
14 learn how to better protect themselves from sexual  
15 abuse and sexual assault. The program shall  
16 develop educational materials and community  
17 information resources on prevention and risk  
18 reduction concerning sexual abuse and sexual  
19 assault and the enforcement of requirements  
20 concerning the registration and supervision of  
21 sexual offenders and the notification of  
22 communities where such offenders reside.

23 (c) The program may include the following:

24 (1) An initial community meeting following a  
25 community notification, sponsored by the Office of  
26 Adult Probation and held in conjunction with the  
27 chief of police, chief elected officials, the  
28 superintendent of schools and other municipal  
29 officials of the community, to discuss the  
30 implementation of the statutory requirements  
31 concerning the registration of a sexual offender  
32 and the notification of the community where such  
33 offender resides, to provide information on the  
34 crime or crimes involved and to provide  
35 information on how the offender will be monitored  
36 by the Office of Adult Probation and the specific  
37 conditions of probation applicable to the  
38 offender;

39 (2) Information on how and where concerned  
40 residents may report observed violations by an  
41 offender of the conditions of such offender's  
42 probation including the designation of a 24-hour  
43 hot line operated by the Connecticut Sexual  
44 Assault Crisis Services, Inc., or by some other  
45 designated operator, and the posting of other  
46 emergency numbers;

47 (3) Resources to educate families and  
48 children in the prevention and avoidance of sexual  
49 abuse and sexual assault and for parents seeking  
50 supportive methods for discussing relevant issues  
51 with their children;

52 (4) Resources on when and how a community may  
53 wish to establish a network of "Safe Houses" for  
54 neighborhood children to use when they seek safe  
55 shelter or the creation of a neighborhood block  
56 watch or crime watch;

57 (5) Resources for police departments and  
58 boards of education to use in consulting with  
59 parents on appropriate school-based classroom  
60 programs stressing safety, prevention and risk  
61 reduction and to use in developing educational  
62 programs for parents to discuss relevant issues  
63 with their children;

64 (6) Compilation and distribution of a list of  
65 child protective agencies, child guidance clinics  
66 and rape crisis centers for families seeking more  
67 in-depth counselling after a community  
68 notification has occurred.

69 (d) The Office of Adult Probation may apply  
70 for and receive grants from the federal government  
71 or any agency thereof or from any foundation,

72 corporation, association or individual for  
73 purposes of the development of the community  
74 response education program under this section.  
75 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect from its  
76 passage.

77 STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS: Language  
78 concerning the prevention and avoidance of sexual  
79 abuse and sexual assault, which had been  
80 inadvertently omitted, was added to subsection  
81 (c)(3) of section 1.

82 JUD COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 39 NAY 0 JFS-LCO

\* \* \* \* \*

"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5747**

STATE IMPACT                      See Explanation Below

MUNICIPAL IMPACT                See Explanation Below

STATE AGENCY(S)                Judicial Department

**EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:**

STATE AND MUNICIPAL IMPACT: The bill requires the Office of Adult Probation to develop a community response education program including educational materials and community information resources. The program could, but is not required to, include initial community meetings following sex offender community notifications, resources to educate families in the prevention and avoidance of sexual abuse, resources for various parties to develop educational programs for parents and resources on how communities can establish "safe houses" for neighborhood children. Effective implementation of these provisions would likely require the targeting of specific staff resources on an on-going basis, and expenses, with a resulting cost of \$25,000 - \$75,000. Since the bill requires that the program be implemented within available appropriations, these costs would be diverted from other programs depending on the extent to which the bill is intensively administered.

It is estimated that the following number of sex offenders will be released on probation and be subject to sex offender notification requirements in the next three years: 1998: 133; 1999: 155; and 2000:107.

It is anticipated that any cost incurred by a

municipality in order to be involved in this program would be minimal and absorbable.

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### **OLR BILL ANALYSIS**

SHB 5747

#### **AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL OFFENDERS**

**SUMMARY:** This bill requires the Office of Adult Probation to develop a community response education program to be available to assist neighborhoods and towns that have been notified that a registered sex offender is living in their community. The office must consult with statewide experts in law enforcement, sex offender treatment, and sexual assault victims services in developing the program.

The bill delineates the program's purpose and scope, describes component parts, and deals with funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Passage

#### **FURTHER EXPLANATION**

##### **Purpose and Scope**

The program is to help parents and children learn how to better protect themselves from sexual assault and abuse. The office must develop educational materials and community information resources on prevention of sexual assault and abuse and enforcement of the law's sex offender registration, supervision, and notification requirements.

##### **Program Components**

The bill allows the program to include a number of specific components. These include an initial community meeting, following notification of the presence of a registered sex offender in the community, sponsored by the Office of Adult Probation with participation by local police, elected officials, school superintendents, and other municipal officials. The meeting can provide information about the offender, his conditions of probation, and how the Office of Adult

Probation will monitor him.

Community members can be told how and where to report observed violations of the offender's probation, including a 24-hour hot line operated by the Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc. or another operator. Resources can be provided to parents about how to prevent and avoid sexual abuse, discuss these issues with their children, and establish a "safe house" network or a neighborhood block or crime watch.

The office can provide resources to police and schools to use in consultation with parents in classroom programs stressing safety, risk reduction, and prevention. It can also provide a list of child protective agencies, child guidance clinics, and rape crisis centers for families looking for more in-depth counseling after a notification has occurred.

### **Funding**

The bill authorizes the Office of Adult Probation to apply for and use federal grants or private corporation or foundation money to pay for developing the program. But the bill also requires the office to establish this program within available appropriations.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Sex Offender Registration Law and Bill**

By law, people convicted of certain serious sex crimes must be registered with the local police or resident state trooper for 10 years after they are released from prison, probation, or parole. Information about registered offenders is public information, but the law contains no provisions either authorizing or forbidding community notification. SSB 65, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, expands the number of crimes requiring registration, essentially conforms Connecticut's law to federal law, and specifically authorizes the police to notify the public about registered offenders when they believe it is necessary to protect the public.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report  
Yea 39    Nay 0